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do, is subsidizing ethanol to the tune of \$26 million a year, and they mandate the use of ethanol in their state. So I understand, Senator Wickersham, why you're not too excited about the ethanol program, but if we, as an agricultural state and as farmers, don't do something to enhance the use and to expand the use of our product, it will get worth less than it is now, and it's not worth a lot. We're just probably one drought away from having a good grain price someday down the road. You never know when that's going to be, but it's kind of sick right now. But I can tell you, we would be piling up more and more of this grain if we didn't have our ethanol facilities in this state. And I think what we have done in this state, when it comes to ethanol, is a huge success story, and it would be wrong to jump ship now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. All senators wishing to speak on the Wickersham amendment are Senator Stuhr, Senator Coordsen, Don Pederson, Senator Wehrbein, and Senator Wickersham. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I think Senator Schrock put it very well. Ethanol has been a success story in Nebraska, and I did hand out the information on what ethanol has done for Nebraska. Just running through some of those facts, and the fact that there are over 700 people now employed in plants, and those plants generally are in rural areas. There is also about 24,000 jobs that are created as a result, or have been created as a result, indirect jobs, of the ethanol production. There has been more than \$1 billion invested in capital investment represented by the 7 ethanol plants in the state of Nebraska. There's been more than \$800 million invested recently in new plants and expansion. State and local tax revenues have also increased because of this investment in the rural communities. I think that we can be proud of the fact that Nebraska does produce more ethanol than any state west of the Missouri River and that, certainly, should provide an additional incentive. Also ethanol plants, if we're talking about our environment, are...are very clean. There's no industrial pollution like some of the industry that we have in this state. Also we know that prices are not good right now, particularly, for corn and grain sorghum. I often ask, well, where would they be without the ethanol industry in Nebraska? I